

Victim Witness



VICTIM WITNESS NEWS

During 2000-2001, the Phoenix and Tucson Victim Witness Offices served more than 1,300 victims and witnesses, 340 of whom were from Indian country. The services provided include:

- informing victims of their rights, including the right to receive restitution, allocution and to present victim impact information to the court;
- provide notice of court action, dates, court orientation/escort, and assistance with travel/lodging;
- referring crime victims to County Victim Compensation Programs, and local, private and public service organizations;
- coordinate with Law Enforcement, Bureau of Prisons, US Probation and other public agencies on behalf of victims.

In addition to serving violent crime victims, Victim Witness serves victims of other crimes including bank robberies, border crimes, postal crimes, Federal land crimes and telemarketing fraud.

NEW VICTIM WITNESS INITIATIVES: The Victim Witness staff has increased to enable existing staff to be more accessible to crime victims. Marlene Beal, an Arizona native and member of the Navajo Nation, recently joined the Phoenix staff as a Victim Assistant. She comes experienced in state and tribal victim advocacy and will be a great asset to the office.

The Fort Mojave tribe established an Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) with combined resources from the Tribe, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The Fort Mojave Reservation located in Arizona, California and Nevada has multiple law enforcement agencies serving the area. AUSA Tom Simon, and Victim Advocate Marc Tetzlaff represent the Arizona U.S. Attorney's Office on this new MDT.

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ONGOING INITIATIVES: 2001 National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 22nd - 28th)

For the fifth year now the U.S. Attorney has recognized individuals and programs from Arizona who demonstrate commendable work on behalf of victims of federal crime. This year the following individuals and programs were recognized: **Gene Trujillo, Douglas Police Detective and FBI Special Agents Michael Knutson and Kris Spilsbury** for successfully investigating a case in which Ramon Molinar-Camargo kidnaped a neurologically impaired child in Mexico, took the child across the border into the desert and sexually assaulted him. The defendant was sentenced to 27 years in prison; **FBI Special Agent Mark Robel**, for his services to crime victims in northern Arizona including traveling long distances to keep them informed. For example, when a 15 year old girl was sexually assaulted and murdered in her own home and later found by her young siblings, SA Robel immediately referred the family to victim services and during the investigation, took great lengths to keep the family informed; **BIA Criminal Investigator John Oliveira** for his ability to interview victims and subjects in criminal investigations. In a recent case an infant's death was attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Mr. Oliveira was not satisfied with the inconsistent statements of the father and through further investigation and Mr. Oliveira's persistence the father admitted to wrapping the infant and throwing her face down on the bed after several unsuccessful attempts to quiet the baby who was interfering with his substance abuse; **Native American Connections, Inc.** for its unique rehabilitative services to Native American women with substance abuse problems but who are victims of domestic violence; **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Police Department** for its services to crime victims, crime prevention, Gang Resistance Education and Training, DARE and Victim Witness. Police Chief Gary Tahmahkera and Assistant Police Chief Karl Auerbach accepted the award on behalf of the Police Department; **Tohono O'Odham Criminal Investigations** handled over 350 new cases in 2000, many of which were violent crimes cases. The workload of the Criminal Investigators continues to rise as more criminal activity is present on the Nation involving undocumented aliens as victims. They were also instrumental in creating the new Registration and Notification of Sex Offenders in their community.

Emergency Witness Assistance Program Since 1997 EWAP has provide emergency assistance to frightened or threatened witnesses and/or their families affected by an ongoing case. To date, 43 witnesses and/or their families have received financial assistance for relocation costs, housing, utilities, meals, the installation of a security system, cellular phone use, clothing and emergency medical care.

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Emergency Crime Victims Fund (ECVF): During 2000-2001, the Office for Victims of Crime provided funds for victims to travel to sentencing hearings. Due to financial circumstances, without this assistance these victims would not have been able to attend sentencing to allocute to the court.

Each year Victim Witness participates in crime prevention activities throughout Arizona. In March, Victim Witness cosponsored a conference with the Bureau of Indian Affairs [BIA], Indian Health Service [IHS] and the **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community**. The conference focused on building and enhancing MDTs and Child Protection Teams. Over 100 service providers in occupations including social work, law enforcement, tribal courts, behavioral and medical professions attended; Victim Witness promoted **Domestic Violence Prevention Month** in October 2000 by distributing Purple ribbons stating “*There’s no excuse for abuse, help prevent domestic violence.*” The Phoenix IHS Hospital and the U.S. Attorney’s Office hosted Speaker, Beverly Wilkins, who conducted two workshops at our offices on how the affects of domestic violence on children. In **April, Child Abuse Prevention Month**, Victim Witness participated in the annual *blue ribbon* campaign and assisted the **Greater Phoenix Child Abuse Prevention Council** with developing a conference on child abuse issues which was held at the Phoenix Heard Museum; In 2001, Victim Witness assisted the **Arizona Coalition for Victim Services** in planning their annual June conference on victim related issues.

Effective Sex Offender Management Task Force. The Tucson Victim Witness participates in this task force which represents both Tohono O’Odham and Pascua Yaqui Indian tribal law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors. The Task Force worked to develop alternative services and resources for perpetrators and victims and discussed community notification, and developed training on the dynamics of a sex offender returning to their community. With the dedicated work of the tribal members on the Task Force, the Tohono O’Odham Nation passed the Sex Offender Notification and Registration Law in 2000. Presently, only two other Indian Nations require such notification and registration.

The Ninth Annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference The District of Arizona co-sponsored “*New Century, New Decade, New Strategies*” a conference which focused on homicide prosecutions and the theft of and trafficking in Indian cultural resources and archeological items. The conference was held in Durango, Colorado in September. Over 300 participants from criminal justice agencies, behavioral health services and other disciplines from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah were in attendance .

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Victim Witness staff continues to work closely with **Federal Victim Witness Coordinators** at the FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Postal Service, Secret Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Bureau of Prisons and tribal, state and county victim service providers including the **Arizona Coalition for Victim Services, Greater Phoenix Child Abuse Prevention Council, Justice for Crime Victims in Indian Country, Operation Bank Safe and Elderly Fraud Group**, sponsored by the Association for the Advancement of Retired People (AARP) .

Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDT) Assistant US Attorneys and Victim Witness Advocates are assigned to attend monthly MDTs on Indian reservations throughout Arizona. *See page 7.* The MDTs include various professionals such as Social Services, Law Enforcement, Tribal Prosecutors, FBI, Medical and other service providers who act to coordinate a response to child abuse investigations, prosecutions and support services.

The Victim Witness staff include:

Phoenix Office, Betti A. Delrow, Victim Witness Coordinator, Mary Williams and Marc Tetzlaff, Victim Witness Specialists and Marlene Beal, Victim Assistant.

Tucson Office, Dori Arter, Victim Witness Specialist, Mary-Anne Estrada, Victim Witness Advocate.

If you would like information on our victim witness services, please contact one of our offices. In **Phoenix**, call (800) 800-2570 or (602) 514-7500; in **Tucson**, call (520) 620-7300